

Governor's Council on Agricultural Education

Brief Update Report and Recommendations

2015

Governor's Council on Agricultural Education Brief Report and Recommendations

During the past year, the Governor's Council on Agricultural Education has discussed a number of issues critical to the process of continually trying to improve Agricultural Education, broadly defined. The following list includes 5 topics that have been identified as major concerns. The Council has taken action in the form of recommendations on 2 of these concerns. Discussion is continuing on 3 of these concerns as noted.

- Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs – (2 recommendations)
- Course Credits/Units for High School – (1 recommendation)
- Defining the word "Agriculture" as used for addressing needs in SAE – (On-going discussions)
- Revisions to the Document Titled: "Guidelines for Agricultural Education in Iowa Secondary Schools" – (Work has started)
- Recruitment & Retention of Teachers of Agriculture – (Currently working on recommendations)

Attached to the summary are documents related to the foregoing concerns.

The Governor's Council on Agricultural Education

An Advisory Committee

The Mission: Study the standards and make recommendations for the improvement of Agricultural Education in Iowa.

1. Review the Recommendations for Recruitment & Retention of Teachers of Agriculture in Iowa (9-16-14).
2. Identify the priorities from this list of recommendations.
3. Identify the next steps to be taken regarding these recommendations. To whom do we make these recommendations known? What specific actions/activities do we suggest be taken? What is the rationale for these priority areas?

The Governor's Council on Agricultural Education

Recommendations and Ideas to Consider for Recruitment and Retention of Teachers of Agriculture in Iowa* 9-16-2014

1. Seek tuition assistance – Shortage area in the state.
2. Appeal for Teacher Education Fees assistance.
3. Appeal to the IAAE Professional Teachers Organization to develop a plan of action to recruit and retain beginning teachers.
4. Appeal to agri-businesses in Iowa to help identify people to go into the teaching profession.
5. Appeal to communities/school districts to identify potential young people to enter the teaching profession.
6. Activate/Promote an alternative route to teacher licensure in agriculture.
7. Develop a mentoring system (with monetary incentives) to encourage young people to consider teaching agriculture.
8. Advocate for high salaries to compete with agri-industry. Encourage extra pay for FFA and SAE components.
9. Advocate for "Summer Contracts" to conduct SAE follow-up and instruction in June and July. Develop a model "summer contract" to do specific activities related to SAE and FFA. Provide a monetary incentive to conduct this "instructional program."
10. "Ear Mark" state funds for Agricultural Education teachers to conduct specific activities as indicated in above mentioned items.
11. If companies are laying off people in the agriculture sector, encourage these people to seek agriculture teacher education degrees.
12. Seek agri-business funding to accomplish the above mentioned activities.
13. Sell the Sizzle – It's great to be an Ag Teacher! Describe why! Spread the word. Case Studies, Stories.

* These ideas were identified by The Council during a brainstorming session at the September 16, 2014 meeting of The Council. To be discussed further as a follow-up to that meeting.